

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

McGeorge Bundy
May 1, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR

Members of the National Security Council
Standing Group

The attached USIA draft public statement on
Cuba will be discussed by the Standing Group
at its meeting on Tuesday, May 7, at 10:30 AM.

McGeorge Bundy
McGeorge Bundy

CONFIDENTIAL Attachment

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May 4, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable
McGeorge Bundy
The White House

USIA has been endeavoring for some time to talk in positive terms to the people of Cuba about the post-Castro period. We seek to assure them that we do not wish to turn back the clock but rather look to the day when free Cubans will rejoin the family of American nations and participate in the constructive economic and social reforms of the Alliance for Progress.

In order to provide an authoritative basis for our information programs we need a strong statement from a high USG source expressing anew the determination of this government that Cuba shall be free and, for the first time, listing specifics of the assistance we will offer to the people of Cuba after Castro's fall. We had hoped to have the Organization of American States issue such a statement, but U.S. representatives there felt it would be virtually impossible since five American Republics still maintain diplomatic relations with Cuba. It is the current policy of the U.S. delegation to the OAS to urge that the strongest possible statements about the future of Cuba be included in public declarations of that body. However, the fare will be thin indeed.

We believe that issuance of a USG statement at an appropriate moment, when our public posture is one of active movement toward a free Cuba, would buoy up the hopes of the Cuban people, reassure them that they are not alone, and give them positive guarantees of our intention to help make their legitimate revolution a success. In addition, such a statement would strengthen our psychological position in Latin America.

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At present our position, which is essentially anti-Castro in nature, suffers from a lack of positiveness. From the Agency's standpoint, the proposed statement would allow us to adopt a much more constructive tone in our output to Cuba. Further, it would not commit us to a fixed timetable and would make our output more sustainable during the intervening period until the fall of Castro.

Attached is a draft statement.



Donald M. Wilson
Deputy Director

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May 4, 1963

PROPOSED STATEMENT

During recent months I have said many times that our Cuba policy looks to the day when the people of that unhappy isle shall be truly free. This is our purpose and hope and it is shared by the other republics of our hemisphere.

At San Jose, Costa Rica, in March we joined with the Presidents of Central America and Panama to "reaffirm the conviction that Cuba will soon join the family of free nations".

In the Declaration of Central America, we said that we had "no doubt that a genuine Cuban revolution will live again, that its betrayers will fall into the shadows of history and that the martyred people of that oppressed isle of the Caribbean will be free from Communist domination, free to choose for themselves the kind of government they wish to have, and free to join their brothers of the hemisphere in a common undertaking to secure for each individual liberty, dignity and well being, which are the objectives of all free societies".

When the time comes, as it shall, for a free Cuba to sweep up the destruction of communist rule and begin the reconstruction of her economy and democratic institutions, she can count on the United States

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not only for sympathy and understanding, but for effective financial and technical aid as well.

Our hopes for a free Cuba point to the future, not to the past. The Cuban people's choice of government is not limited, as Castro would have them believe, to communism or return to a rightist dictatorship. We would support the legitimate aims and reforms of the early days of the Cuban revolution, before it was betrayed by Castro, and help Cubans to build their future on a foundation of social and economic betterment.

A free Cuba will be invited to join her sister republics in the vast cooperative programs of the Alliance for Progress, through which we support for all the people of this hemisphere, including Cubans, the right of free elections, and the free exercise of basic human freedoms. Under the Alliance, we support equitable land reform; accelerated economic progress to build industries and provide more jobs; programs to provide decent housing to the people; fair wages and satisfactory working conditions for all workers; greatly increased educational opportunities for all; health and sanitation programs; sound governmental monetary and fiscal policies; and solutions to Latin America's traditional problem of excessive price fluctuations of basic exports.

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The Cuban people will make their own blueprint. But we expect them to require special help, aside from participation in the Alliance for Progress, and we will be prepared to give it, with no strings attached and in the spirit of friendship that has been traditional between our two countries.

The post-Castro Cubans will be in immediate dire need of many things. They will require food, medicines, clothes, machinery, tools, transport, and other commodities that Castro's reckless policies have made scarce. We will be prepared to provide these needs promptly, and in substantial amounts.

I am confident that the Organization of American States will offer its good offices to help organize and supervise free elections, so as to assure the exercise of complete freedom at the polling place. OAS technical assistance will also be made available, I am certain, to repair the ravages wrought by the Soviet-dictated military build-up and communist agricultural mismanagement. In the important field of education, the OAS can be of valuable assistance in helping Cuba to regain academic freedom and to reorient its educational system on democratic concepts.

There will be many tasks that the free Cuban people can accomplish themselves, with little or no assistance from their neighbors. After years

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April 29, 1963
Draft #2

~~PROPOSED STATEMENT FOR PRESIDENT~~

POSITIVE STATEMENT ON CUBA

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When the time comes, as it shall, for a free Cuba to sweep up the destruction of communist rule and begin the reconstruction of her economy and democratic institutions, she can count on the United States not only for sympathy and understanding, but for effective financial and technical aid as well.

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There will be many tasks that the free Cuban people can accomplish themselves, with little or no assistance from their neighbors. After years of a deliberate communist effort to stifle the spark of democracy, they will want to build a system of law and justice in which all share equally, establish a free press and radio, liberate their once strong unions from the control of the state, and reconstitute their political and economic ties with the other American Republics.

I firmly believe that the majority of the Cuban people, including many thousands who have been forced to appear as supporters of the communist regime, hold to their faith in freedom and are determined to regain their independence. They have learned that the path down which their communist leaders have taken them does not lead to the original goals of the revolution. In freedom, and in association with their fellow American Republics, their revolution can live again.

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